

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 19, 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Edgartown, Massachusetts.
Monday, Dec. 19th, 1887. My darling Mabel:

I wonder what you are all doing now. I suppose Elsie and Daisy are fast asleep in bed — and you — let me see — you are reading in bed — spoiling your beautiful eyes — and preparing white roses to place beside the red ones I will bring you from Martha's vineyard.

I am very sorry we did not bring the children here when we returned from Baddeck. I have come to the conclusion that this is a beautiful wintering place — especially for children. I can't bear to see Daisy's face blanch as the winter goes on. Don't keep her indoors too much.

The air here is so pure and bracing — without being cold — that it is a pleasure to breathe — and there is a constant stimulus to active exercise. In a minute I can be out of the town — by the shore — or on the barrens — or in the woods. Mr. Hitz is a splendid walking companion — never tires — walks faster than I do — and enjoys silence — as much as I do. We can walk — and not feel under the necessity of talking unless we feel like it. Yesterday I took a boat and rowed him over to the Island of Chappaquiddy. We walked all the afternoon — spending some time on the borders of Cape Page Pond — an extraordinary formation — a sort of reservation fenced in from the sea by a narrow beach many miles in extent — a narrow back thrown up by the waves on three sides of the pond which I presume must be a couple of miles in diameter — at its narrowest part. If you can find the large map of Martha's vineyard I brought home with me last time take a look at Chappaquiddy and Cape Page Pond — It is really worth looking at. We returned at dusk having walked about 10 miles. 2 This afternoon we have had a brisk walk of about five miles — and I have returned with my cheeks burning and a pleasant glow all over my

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body. The stranded ship stands nearly in the same place as before. They have moved her out 30 or 40 feet and that is all. I have no doubt that the owners would be glad to have her go to pieces — for they are only insured against total loss!! — However — the wrecking agents are doing all they can to save her — and I wish them all success. They don't expect to succeed excepting during a storm. I would not like to be engaged in such a work — the risk to life is too great.

Did your Mamma tell you how I happened to be in New York when they were there? I found that if I went straight to Boston from Philadelphia — I would reach Boston in the evening — and have to get up early to catch the 2:30 train for New Bedford — so I thought my safest plan would be to spend the night in the cars as I would be turned out in the morning early enough for a good breakfast and my train. So I stayed over at New York — intending to have a little spree all to myself! — by going to one of the theatres. I was surprised to find your father and mother at the Gilsey — though I did not go to the theatre — I had a very pleasant time with them — and enjoyed their delightful little dinner party very much. I was specially glad to meet the Editor of the Century — Mr. Gilder — and Mr. St. George (?)— Was he your \$2500 man? Mr. and Mrs. Low (?) were also there. I inquired fondly after your baby! You poor little girl — you don't know how lovely you looked — and how gentle — with that plaster baby in your arms. If the artist could have looked into your heart — he would have been touched to the quick — and would have taken you as his model for that holy mother with the babe in her arms. He might have seen a halo round your head — as I did my dear.

I love you very much my darling little wife — and wish indeed 3 you could be blessed as you desire — with safety to yourself.

Your loving husband, Alec. I love you too much to wish to risk your life.